

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Final Office Action dated October 18, 2007, within two months. Thus, Applicants request an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-20. Applicants cancel claim 5 without prejudice in favor of filing one or more claims disclosing similar subject matter. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Scolini et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233321 ("Scolini") in view of King et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0228727 ("King") in further view of Heindel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,304,857 ("Heindel"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Scolini generally discloses an electronic, integrated invoice platform capable of incorporating complex large-scale hierarchical billing files from multiple legacy systems into a single data stream. The Scolini system processes this data stream to provide a view of the data according to an organization's hierarchical structure.

The Scolini system serves as an independent invoice platform that can connect with a number of banking systems and corporate legacy systems to retrieve data and compile billing statements and invoices on behalf of a number of large corporate clients. Scolini further discloses that the clients may interact with the invoice platform to generally obtain invoices by way of the Internet. As such, clients may access the Scolini system to perform, for example, customer service operations where fast access to account information is critical.

Scolini may disclose the general ability to format invoices; however, Scolini does not disclose the online ability to review, correct, regenerate, or delete invoices prior to generating and printing. Rather, Scolini is primarily concerned with the problem of collecting and combining large amounts of data and presenting it to clients in a convenient and understandable manner (e.g., presentation). Scolini generally discloses performing a review of the raw collected data to detect errors prior to generating an invoice. Applicants assert, however, that a review of raw data files prior to the generation of the invoice is not the same as performing a review of a completed invoice. In fact, Scolini discloses that one of the features of the invention is that, "no professional auditors needed to review invoices" (paragraph 0150). **In other words, Scolini**

teaches away from the present invention in that Scolini does not contemplate any review of invoices, regardless of the procedure, because the Scolini system focuses on an earlier step, namely, requiring a superior review of raw data, thereby rendering a review of any resulting invoices unnecessary. Applicants assert that this difference alone is significant, as many errors may be created during an invoice generation process, even when no errors are detected in the raw data files. For example, the raw data files may contain information that are improperly parsed and/or concatenated with other data when generating an invoice.

Moreover, because Scolini is not concerned with the problem of performing a quality review of completed invoices, Scolini is further not concerned with flagging individual invoices as to eliminate the need for a quality review for those flagged invoices. Practitioners would appreciate that performing a quality review on a large number of invoices would be a time consuming and expensive task. Therefore, it would be beneficial to flag certain invoices in order to enable the system to remove certain invoices from a review queue based on any number of factors such as, for example, the low level of complexity of an invoice.

King discloses a computer implemented quality review process, wherein individual statements may be individually selected from a batch printing run. King is the U.S. published application for the subject invention. The Examiner cited paragraph 2 of the background of the instant application as disclosing the claim limitation, "preventing the batch printing until the individual account statements are approved and released. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the background of the instant application (King), Applicant describes prior art account systems that enable a batch of account statements to be printed together. In discussing the drawbacks of such systems, the Applicant has pointed out that:

"After printing, the statements are manually reviewed for accuracy and appearance in a quality review process, after which the statements are distributed to the appropriate billed parties. If problems in any statements are discovered during quality review, the data for any such erroneous statements must be re-entered into the accounting system and the entire batch printing job must be run again" (paragraph 0002).

Therefore, it is clear that King discloses that prior art systems do not prevent batch printing until the individual account statements are approved. To the contrary, King discloses that the statements are only reviewed for accuracy after printing.

Heindel discloses a system for generating custom designed billing statements. Specifically, the Heindel system includes a statement designer that enables a user to create a template for a billing statement. The user then provides the template and billing data to a third-party printer who prints the billings statements in accordance with the template and distributes the statements to the appropriate entities.

Scolini, the background of King, and Heindel each disclose statement processing and printing systems and methods. **However, each lack the sophistication to automatically detect erroneous data and present statement details within in a manner that ensures that each erroneous statement is corrected prior to printing.** As such, neither Scolini, the background of King, Heindel, nor any combination thereof, disclose or contemplate at least:

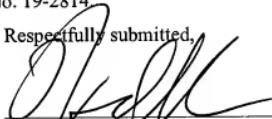
- automatically detecting when the account statement is erroneous, wherein the erroneous account statement includes at least one of erroneous data and missing data and, wherein the erroneous account statement is added to an account statement cache;
- presenting the account statement cache to a user by way of a graphical user interface, wherein the graphical user interface includes a quality review tab and a print status tab
- receiving, from the user, a selection of at least one of: the quality review tab and the print status tab
- displaying a first subset of the account statement cache within the quality review tab when the user selects the quality review tab, wherein the quality review tab displays at least one of: an account number, a statement date, a statement generation date, a recipient name, and a statement type indicator corresponding to each of the selected account statements
- displaying a second subset of the account statement cache within the print status tab when the user selects the print status tab, wherein the print status tab displays at least one of: an account number, a statement date, a statement generation date, a recipient name, and a statement type indicator corresponding to each of the individual account statements that have been released for printing
- receiving, from the user, a selection of the account statement from the quality review tab
- receiving, from the user, one of an approval of the account statement, a rejection of the account statement, a correction of the account statement, a request for regeneration of the account statement, and a request to delete the account statement
- removing the account statement from the quality review tab
- adding the account statement to the print status tab
- releasing the account statement for printing
- removing the account statement from the print status tab

as similarly recited by independent claims 1, 17, and 18.

Dependent claims 2-16, 19, and 20 variously depend from independent claims 1, 17, and 18. As such, dependent claims 2-16, 19, and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicant regards as his invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,


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